

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 RSR-01 /155 W

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R 091430 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6418

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0732

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, HA

SUBJECT: I. S. JOSEPH CONTRACT PROSPECTS DIM

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 0577

1. A RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN EMBOFF AND LEADING LOCAL BUSINESSMAN CLIFFORD BRANDT TENDS TO CONFIRM EMBASSY IMPRESSION (PARA 4 REFTTEL) THAT I. S. JOSEPH CONTRACT IS DEAD AS A DOOR-NAIL. BRANDT TOLD EMBOFF, IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, THAT MINISTER FRANCISQUE HAD PASSED HIM A COPY OF THE I. S. JOSEPH FEASIBILITY STUDY WITH REQUEST THAT HE DRAW UP A GOH COUNTER PROPOSAL WHICH I. S. JOSEPH COULD NOT ACCEPT. MEANWHILE GOH WOULD STALL BY REQUIRING I. S. JOSEPH TO TRANSLATE ITS PROPOSAL INTO FRENCH.

2. BRANDT ALSO SAID HE HAD, AT SUGGESTION OF A NEW YORK LAWYER, DRAFTED A LETTER TO SECRETARY ROGERS DEPLORING USG "SUPPORT" FOR A CONTRACT WHICH GRANTS A TWENTY YEAR MONOPOLY TO ANY FIRM, AND UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH BRANDT FEELS ARE PREJUDICIAL TO HAITIAN INTERESTS. WE UNDERSTAND THIS LETTER CLAIMS THAT A SIMILAR CONTRACT WAS PROPOSED BY THE GOH TO BRANDT LAST SUMMER BUT THAT HE REFUSED IT FOLLOWING THE ADVICE OF PEOPLE IN THE US AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS UNSOUND. ALTHOUGH NOT EXPRESSED IN THE

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LETTER, BRANDT'S THESIS IS THAT THE PRICE RATIO AND PROJECTED PROFITS IN THE I. S. JOSEPH FEASIBILITY STUDY ARE EXCESSIVE AND WOULD CAUSE A LARGE INCREASE IN PRICE OF EDIBLE OILS ON LOCAL HAITIAN MARKET. BRANDT ADDED THAT HE HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER OR NOT TO SEND THE LETTER TO THE SECRETARY. WHATEVER THE MERITS OF BRANDT'S ARGUMENT IT APPEARS TO CONFIRM THE BASIC FACTS THAT THE GOH SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH I. S. JOSEPH, HAD SECOND THOUGHTS AND UNILATERALLY ANNULLED THE CONTRACT.

3. COMMENT: BRANDT'S ROLE IN THIS MATTER SUGGESTS THAT ESTABLISHED BUSINESS INTERESTS IN HAITI ARE PREPARED TO MAKE GREAT EFFORTS TO PROTECT WHAT THEY CONSIDER THEIR ECONOMIC INTERESTS.
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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